



Alabama, our 22nd state, joined the United States on Dec. 14, 1819. Today, it’s the 24th largest state by population, with about 5 million people.

Alabama history

This state of the Deep South was inhabited by Native Americans for more than 8,000 years, including Cherokee and Chickasaw peoples.

In the 1500s, Spanish explorers arrived, and in 1702, the French established Old Mobile.

In January 1861, Alabama **seceded**, or separated, from the Union and joined the Confederate States of America. About 120,000 men from Alabama fought in the Civil War.

Montgomery is the state capital, but Huntsville is the largest city, with NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center and other research centers headquartered there. Its oldest city, Mobile, is situated on Mobile Bay on the Gulf Coast.

Today, Alabama is known for car manufacturing, finance, tourism and aerospace industries. Agricultural products include poultry and eggs, cattle and fish, along with peanuts, cotton, grains and soybeans.

Natural Alabama

Mountains and forests cover much of the state, particularly in the north. National



forests, monuments and historical sites can be found throughout Alabama.

The Gulf Coast and Mobile Bay beaches are top tourist attractions. Mobile Bay is an important port for oceangoing ships.

“Jubilees” are two-hour periods of fishy activity. Just before dawn on summer mornings, thousands of shellfish such as crabs and shrimp move so close to the shores of Mobile Bay that crowds can simply scoop up a seafood feast.

Education

The University of Alabama is the state’s largest college. Many football fans support UA’s Crimson Tide and the Auburn University Tigers.

Tuskegee University, a historically Black institution, was founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881 as the Tuskegee Normal School for Colored Teachers. George Washington Carver taught there and developed many new ways for farmers to improve their soil and grow new crops.



The Talladega Superspeedway is the site of many NASCAR races.

Mini Fact:

The name “Alabama” may come from the Choctaw words “alba” and “amo,” which mean “thicket clearers” or “vegetation gatherers.”

Famous Alabamians

• **Coretta Scott King** was a leader working for the rights of African Americans, women, children and the



Coretta Scott King 1927-2006

poor, as well as for peace and the spread of democracy. She grew up on a farm in Heiberger, Alabama. After her husband, Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated in 1968, she helped start the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. The King Center helps train people throughout the world to use his nonviolent methods to make changes.

• **Harper Lee** was famous for her 1960 book “To Kill a Mockingbird.” It tells of a



Harper Lee 1926-2016

lawyer raising his two children in a small Alabama town. He defends an innocent Black man in spite of the townspeople’s prejudices. The book won a Pulitzer Prize in 1961. Lee grew up in Monroeville, Alabama. Many of the book’s characters are based on real people she grew up with.

Resources

On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPAlabama

At the library:

- “Alabama” by Joanne Mattern
- “The Ghostly Tales of Alabama” by Alan N. Brown

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of Alabama are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ALABAMA, BEACH, COAST, CRIMSON, FORESTS, GULF, JUBILEE, KING, LEE, MOBILE, MONTGOMERY, MOUNTAINS, SECEDE, SHELLFISH, SOUTH, SPANISH, TALLADEGA, TIDE, TUSKEGEE.

D	H	A	O	K	S	F	L	U	G	J	E	E	L	Q
Z	S	E	G	N	O	S	M	I	R	C	H	S	A	L
S	I	Y	R	E	M	O	G	T	N	O	M	E	L	W
T	F	V	H	T	D	M	J	H	O	O	E	C	A	G
S	L	V	E	C	S	A	E	U	S	V	D	E	B	S
E	L	B	D	T	A	A	L	L	B	I	I	D	A	O
R	E	K	I	N	G	E	O	L	I	I	N	E	M	U
O	H	B	T	G	N	P	B	C	A	B	L	A	A	T
F	S	E	E	G	E	K	S	U	T	T	O	E	P	H
U	S	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	A	F	M	E	S

Cook’s Corner

Turkey Meatball Sliders

You’ll need:

- 1 pound ground turkey
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- Salt and pepper

What to do:

1. In a large bowl, combine turkey, Parmesan, egg and about 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Mix well and shape into 12 meatballs.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add meatballs and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, turning frequently, until golden brown on all sides. Add sauce and bring to a simmer; simmer for 5 minutes.
3. Arrange a meatball and some sauce on each roll and serve. Serves 4.

Adapted from “The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families” with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

1. Area without limits beyond the Earth’s atmosphere (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

2. Knitted/ woven materials for feet (5-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. Nutlike seeds grown underground (7-letter plural noun)


□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Sandy or gravelly part of a shore or waterway (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Space, Socks, Peanuts, Beach.

1. Scientists worked on the first _____ shuttle in Huntsville.

2. Fort Payne makes more _____ than any U.S. state.

3. Most of the _____ in the U.S. come from Dothan.

4. Kyle and his family visited a _____ on the Gulf Coast.

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Mini Jokes

Annie: Why is Alabama the smartest state?

Alan: Because it has four A’s and one B!

Eco Note

Earth was slammed in mid-August by an intense wave of charged particles from a solar storm that ionized the top of the planet’s atmosphere. Radiation from the solar flare caused shortwave radio blackouts from East Asia and Indonesia to the Middle East and East Africa. It also triggered vivid displays of the aurora borealis and aurora australis. Earth went through the most powerful solar storm in 20 years during May, causing aurora to be seen at much lower latitudes than normal around the world.




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For later: Look in your newspaper for articles about Alabama.

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